GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5265
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
RECLAMATION OF DEGRADED FOREST LAND
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual target of reclamation of degraded forest land;

(b) the funds required and made available for the purpose during Eighth and Ninth Plan;

(c) the area reclaimed so far; and

(d) the strategy worked out to achieve the annual targets?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) to (d) Annual targets for reclamation of degraded forest land are dependent on the availability of funds for the centrally sponsored and State Plan afforestation schemes. The central assistance provided to the State Governments for this purpose during the Eighth Plan and earmarked in the Ninth Plan (including 2001-02) under the major afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (viz. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme and Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme) is Rs. 413.79 crore and Rs. 550.35 crore respectively. The area coverage under these schemes during the Eighth Plan was 8,11,056 hectares, while in the Ninth Plan the target for physical achievement has been pegged at 6,65,394 hectares. To improve the implementation of afforestation projects in the field, people`s participation through Joint Forest Management has been made an integral part of these schemes in the Ninth Plan.